

Message Text

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ORIGIN COA-02

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APPROVED BY COA: WILLIAM L. SULLIVAN

EA/ J: MR. CAMPBELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 097988

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, JA

SUBJ: JAPANESE LOBSTER POT FISHERY OFF NEW ENGLAND COAST

1. TWO JAPANESE FISHING VESSELS OBSERVED ON MAY 18 SETTING OUT METAL TRAPS 95 MILES SE OF NANTUCKET ISLAND, MASS. IN WATER DEPTH OF 80 TO 110 FATHOMS. COAST GUARD BOARDING REVEALED VESSELS FISHING WITH TRAPS FOR LOBSTER AND JIGGING FOR SQUID. LOBSTER FISHERY A CLEAR VIOLATION OF AGREED MINUTES, NO. 10 TO BILATERAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT OF DEC 20, 1972. JAPANESE VESSELS ADVISED BY COAST GUARD TO RETRIEVE POTS, RETURN LOBSTER AND ANY DEEP SEA RED CRAB TO OCEAN AND CEASE INTENTIONAL FISHERY FOR LOBSTER. OVER 3000 POTS HAVE BEEN RETRIEVED UNDER WATCHFUL EYE OF COAST GUARD VESSELS. POTS CONTAINED SOME LOBSTER AND SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF RED CRAB. THE LATTER IS CONTINENTAL SHELF FISHERIES RESOURCE WHICH IN ABSENCE OF ANY AGREEMENT PROTECTED FROM FOREIGN EXPLOITATION ON US CONTINENTAL SHELF BY STATUTE. ALL RED CRAB AND ALL BUT 20 LOBSTER RETURNED TO SEA BY JAPANESE VESSELS. VESSELS CURRENTLY MAINTAINING POSITION SE OF NANTUCKET WITH MOST OR ALL POTS RETRIEVED. THEY APPEAR TO BE AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS FROM OWNER.

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2. JAPANESE VESSELS - RYOUN MARU NR 2 AND MARUNAKA MARU
NO. 62. OWNER IS OSAKA KK. MARUNAKA DEPARTED JAPAN ON
APRIL 3, ARRIVED 40-11 N 68-25 W ON MAY 16.

3. PHONECON WITH EMBASSY ON MAY 19 AND NOTE OF OBJECTION
DELIVERED ON MAY 21. ECONOMIC MINISTER YUTAKA NOMURA
EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN ON PART OF GOJ AS INDICATED BY FACT
THAT GOJ ORDERED VESSELS THRU OWNERS IN LESS THAN 24 HRS
TO CEASE FISHERIES AND HAUL POTS. S/FW- COA ASKED WHY
JAPANESE VESSELS PERMITTED TO FISH IN VIOLATION OF FIVE
MONTH OLD AGREEMENT. QUESTIONED ADEQUACY OF GOJ SUPER-
VISION OF FISHING VESSELS, AND INVITED CONSIDERATION BY
GOJ OF IDEA OF ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT ENFORCEMENT SCHEME.

4. REQUEST FISHATT INVESTIGATE WHAT TYPE OF LICENSE
ISSUED TO VESSELS BY GOJ, WHAT ARE PROSPECTS FOR PENALTIES
AND POSSIBLE SEVERITY, AND IF POSSIBLE CONFIRM TARGET
SPECIES AS LOBSTER OR LOBSTER AND RED CRAB. WE REQUESTED
NOMURA TO INFORM US OF FISHING VESSEL INTENTIONS, RESULTS
OF GOJ INVESTIGATION AND SEVERITY OF PENALTIES ASSESSED.
BELIEVE JUNE ICNAF MEETING MAY BE APPROPRIATE TIME FOR
INFORMAL BILATERAL TALKS ON SUBJECT OF IMPROVED GOJ SUPER-
VISION OF ITS VESSELS AND TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE SCHEME
OF JOINT ENFORCEMENT. WE REQUESTED NOMURA TO CONVEY TO
GOJ THAT USG MODERATE RESPONSE TO THIS SITUATION WAS IN
PART BASED ON HOPE THAT GOJ WOULD SUPPORT USG ICNAF PRO-
POSAL ON EFFORT REDUCTION AND IMPROVED ENFORCEMENT SCHEME.
MEMO OF CONVERSATION TO FOLLOW. RUSH

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